
Felim Egan - Biography

Felim Egan was born in Ireland in 1952 and studied in Belfast and Portsmouth before attending the Slade School of Art in London. He spent a year at the British School at Rome in 1980 before returning to Dublin where he has since lived and worked at Sandymount Strand on the edge of Dublin Bay. Egan has exhibited widely and has work in numerous collections globally. In 1981 he represented Ireland at the Xie Biennale de Paris and in 1985 at the San Paulo Biennale. In 1993 he won the prestigious UNESCO prize in Paris, and in 1995 the Premiere Prize at Cagnes-sur-Mer.

Try to consider these questions about *Northern Line*

1. Without touching the painting how do you think it would feel under your fingers?
2. If this wasn't made of paint what else might it be made of?
3. Here is a list of terms; shape, scale, pattern, composition, line, tone, consider each of these words in relationship to this work. Do they help you to remember it, or appreciate it?
4. If you had the opportunity to change the elements of this painting what would you do and why?
5. When dealing with painting that is photographically representative, it is fairly easy to transport yourself into it and bring with you the usual rules of reality, like time and gravity. Are these rules suspended when viewing a work like this?
6. Egan's work is "influenced by the landscape, in particular by the striking characteristics of his home patch, Sandymount Strand, Dublin." How does this statement modify your appreciation of the work?

On the reverse of this sheet is a short one-page exercise to assist you while looking at the painting. It comprises of five questions. Feel free to fill it out and take it home with you or you can simply use the questions in your mind as prompts to look at the painting more thoroughly. (If you do fill it out, please tell a member of staff so we can replace it for the next visitor)

1. Answer the first question, "Like/Dislike", with just one of these two words.
2. The next one is "Description", here describe all the physical details you can about the painting such as the name of the artist; the title; medium; dimensions as well as how the paint is applied and so on.
3. For the next one "Imagery", note down what the painting is of. For example Barrie Cooke's Two Lough Key Islands might include, "an island in mist, sort of abstracted, out in the lake but sort of floating in the painting" or Blaise Drummond's *Wreck of Hope* might include "a passenger aeroplane flying through a circular gap in stormy clouds in the centre of the painting. The plane is very small for the size of the painting" Describe as much as you can, everything you notice such as the choice of colours, the position of things in the painting and so on.
4. In the next one "Interpretation". Try to figure out what the artist was trying to communicate, what they meant by putting these things on the canvas, why are they there, what does the choice of colours signify, how does one bit relate to another, what was the artist feeling? Think about this for a couple of minutes before you come to your conclusions.
5. Finally you come to "Like/Dislike" again, but this time rather than just one word, give a sentence or two about your answer.